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From the Director



Learning From The Past

Dr. William McCoy, Director

In several presentations I've made this academic year, the core theme has revolved around the subject of "mama'nem"—a term of endearment, frequently used in the Black community, to characterize what has been learned from our maternal elders about life lessons and circumstances. I've even made up a song about "mama'nem" that helps listeners understand the importance of holding dear those who so poignantly shared wisdom with us while growing up. In essence, those sayings were witty representations of what "good sense" is supposed to look and/or sound like.

To this end, outside my office door in Hardin Hall is a posting entitled "Insightful Quotes." Many of these quotes are things my maternal grandmother from Mississippi (a definitive "mama'nem" figure in my life) would frequently rely on to serve as verbal guides for life lessons. Several examples of such sayings include:

- "A closed book doesn't get read, and a closed mouth doesn't get fed."
- "Remember: going there can't tell been there how to get there!"
- "Bought sense is the best sense in the world."
- "A dog that will bring a bone will carry a bone."
- "When you've got your hand in the lion's mouth, you've got to ease it out."

In the last few years, I've come across several additional sayings that I cannot attribute to "mama'nem,"—yet they hold meanings just as influential as those listed above: "I only debate my equals; all others I teach" and, "There's so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us that it hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us".

In essence, these sayings are lessons we learn by simply experiencing life in its many facets—the good, the bad, and the interesting. Whether we learn these lessons from our elders or from an innocent child, the main point is to actually learn and grow from what we have been taught; but more importantly, we should share our learned experiences to help others along the way. This perpetuates growth for everyone.











Over the past seven years, the Rutland Institute for Ethics has been in perpetual growth and continuous improvement mode. We've become rather efficient in gathering the data necessary to assess the results of the past so that we can improve our goals for the future. Those who fulfill the role of "mama'nem" for us are our advisory board members, our affiliate faculty members (FACE), our student group (CHANGE), and various other stakeholders we are fortunate enough to cross paths with.

We are strong because our constituents are dedicated to ethics education and ethical leadership. In my not-so-humble opinion, the Rutland Institute for Ethics has never had a staff more devoted to expanding ethics education to the campus, community, and beyond. A simple yet telling example of Rutland's impact is demonstrated through Serbian students from the University of Belgrade, who during a time of political upheaval and uncertainty in their own country, requested to receive instruction on how to improve their

personal and professional ethics to better position themselves as future ethical leadership advocates. Instructing this group of students monthly on a Sunday morning for two hours (prior to church) is well worth the sacrifice!

The Institute will continue to drive "fiercely forward" changing lives and discourse for the positive. Regardless of how we have learned or who we have learned from, we move at the speed of progress to the next level of success. Join us as we journey; as mama'nem would say—"We promise we'll do you good!"

Milliam C. McCoy

Mission, Vision & Values



To encourage discussion on campus, in businesses, and in the community about how ethical decisionmaking can be the basis of both personal and professional success

Equipping students, staff, faculty, businesses, and community members with the tools to address personal, professional, and global ethical dilemmas





Integrity

Inclusivity

Service

Relationships

Education Without Limits

This year, we were honored to partner with more than 70 academic groups and community organizations to provide the resources and tools necessary to become more ethical leaders on campus and beyond.







HEAR OUR ROAR AT...

ASHRAE Presentation

Bridge Program Convocation

Business 3010

CUHR Staff Training

CUPD Staff Training

CU Grow

Orientation Ambassadors

Pi Chi Training

PRTM EDGE Program

Sales Innovation Program

Serbian Youth Caucus

St. George Rosenwald School

Town of Williamston MLK Breakfast

& MANY MORE!







From the Board Chair



Ethics in Everything, Everywhere

Jane Dyer, Board Chair

Most would say "yes" to all of us practicing ethical decision-making in everything and everywhere. In today's world, the work of the Rutland Institute for Ethics is more important than ever before.

Ethical decision making is a process that can be learned and practiced through the STAR Decision-Making Model, taught through the Institute's outreach across campus and into high schools across the country. Just this spring, the Institute provided high school students from across the country the opportunity to solve an ethical dilemma by applying the STAR model: Stop—recognize the ethical dilemma, identify the ethical issues, and

develop potential solutions; Test—use at least three of six ethical tests (Harm Test, Legality Test, Precedent Test, Respect Test, Golden Rule Test, Peer or Colleague Test); Act—make a decision; and Reflect—consider the outcome, take responsibility, and adapt for the future. This experience is an in-depth exercise and has lasting effects on the students who take away an invaluable process for making ethical decisions.

Another exciting event for the Institute was the campus wide TIDE conference. I personally got to hear from Kendra Gordillo—our own Board's Young Alumni member who attended university in Amsterdam as a Fulbright Scholar. She shared a very interesting insight into fostering ethical leadership in biomedicine. Following Kendra was Dr. Jerome Adams, 20th Surgeon General of the United States. He shared his experiences and the ethical challenges in today's world. Speakers across our different colleges gave practical insight and advice to Clemson students as they strive to be Tigers for Integrity, Discourse, and Ethics.

Serving on the Board of the Rutland Institute for Ethics is an honor as we continue to instill in Clemson students and high school students across the country the importance of ethical decision-making and practice. I believe that we are promoting ethics in everything, everywhere!





Advisory Board



Delia Allen



Stephan C. Barton



Bryan Batson



Michael Cunningham



Dave Diamond



Jane Dyer



Anderson Garcia



Kendra Gordillo



Harskin "HJ" Hayes, Jr.



L'Tanga Johnson



Hunter Jones



Connie McCullough



Robert J. Rutland | Founder



Advisory Board 2024–2025



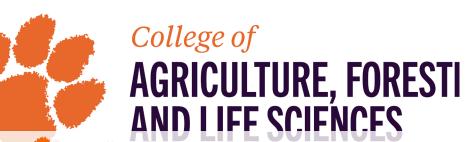






Sponsors & Partners







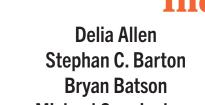












Michael Cunningham Dave Diamond

HONORS COLLEGE

Deborah DuBose

Kelly Durham Yvonne Durham Jane Dyer Anderson Garcia Kendra Gordillo H.J. Hayes, Jr. L'Tanga Johnson
Hunter Jones
Nancy G. Love
Connie E. McCullough
Robert J. Rutland
Dick Sargent









Corporate Sponsors





GE VERNOVA

Walter Wayne Development

Hot Topics Attendees

Classroom Presentations

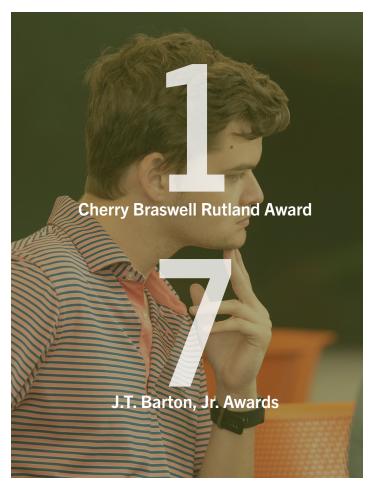
TIDE Conference Attendees

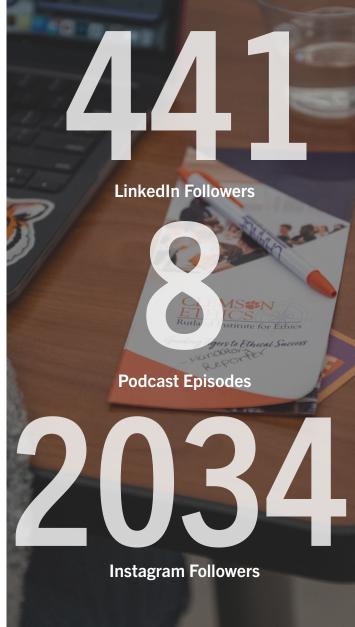
High School Ethics Case Competition Teams

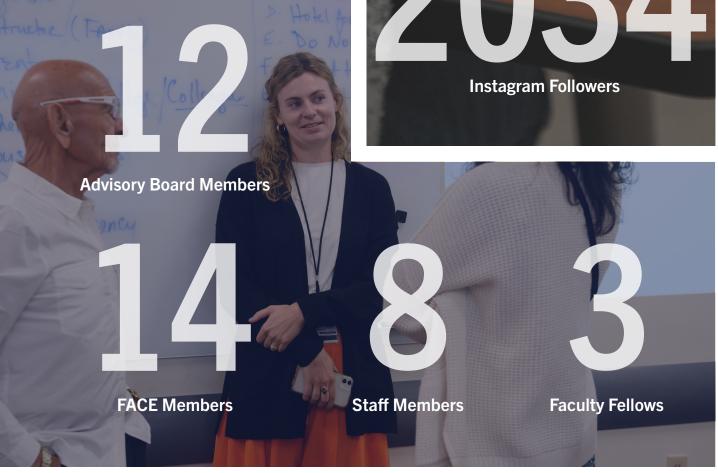


Annual Ethics Day Attendees













Rutland Staff



Dr. William McCoy

Director

Dr. McCoy serves as the face of our Institute, shaping institute-wide decisions, developing strategic initiatives with the Advisory Board, and advocating for ethics with campus leadership and beyond.



Emily-Elizabeth Cotton

Assistant Director

Emily-Elizabeth coordinates
Institute programming and serves
as the advisor of the CHANGE
student ethics organization. She
works to ensure the the continual
operation of the Institute.



Matt Harrington

Education & Operations Specialist

Matt worked to ensure the digital advancement of the Institute and coordinated the Ina B. Durham High School Ethics Case Competition. He was key in establishing our National Beta partnership.



Ashe Ballew

Student Affairs Specialist

"Working with the Rutland Institute has challenged me to intentionally incorporate ethics into my work in student affairs. It has helped me become more reflective: asking why things are the way they are, rather than accepting them at face value. I have been continuously supported in doing what is right for my personal path to success."



Kaelyn Gannon

Fall Communications Specialist

"I absolutely loved my time working with the Rutland Institute, and being able to share the Institute's message and teachings was incredibly rewarding in my time there. Collaborating with the team was always a pleasure, and I greatly appreciate all the work that is being done by the Institute."



Lily Rhodes

Spring Communications Specialist

"My time with the Rutland Institute for Ethics has taught me to design with purpose. I've become more intentional in how I communicate, using design not just to inform, but to reflect values and support a meaningful mission. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to grow alongside this Institute."

Faculty Fellows

Our faculty fellows worked tirelessly to expand the mission of the Institute in and beyond the classroom.



Karen BurtonClemson Libraries

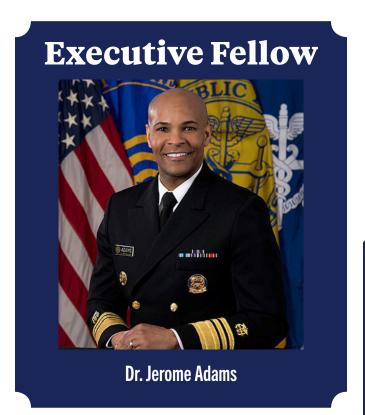


Luke RapaCollege of Education











CHANGE

The CHANGE student ethics committee celebrated a year of remarkable growth and impact. With increased membership and a broader campus reach, CHANGE hosted 17 dynamic events engaging students across all eight academic colleges. From case competitions to collaborative discussions, their programming empowered ethical leadership and decision-making among Clemson students. As we expand our presence and deepen our impact, CHANGE continues to foster a culture of integrity and critical thinking across the university.









Executive Board



Justin Wolfe President



Lucy Hart Vice President



Albash Khan Treasurer



Evelyn Morin Secretary



Delaney McLaughlin Public Relations



Bobbi Elmore Historian



Matt Harrington Policies & Procedures

Members



Stephanie Beitle



Brianna Blake



Carson Cordero



Abby Dashbach



Will Davidson



Jaz Diaz Melgar



Joyce Dosseh-Anyron



Erin Glass



Emma Hardy



Bryce Havens



Charles Hawes



Skyler Holland



Olumayowa Idowu



Ridge Kaauwai



Gabrielle Kovan



Isabella Longo



Baylie Mazyck



Maddie McKinley



Ryan Mehlem



Samone Middleton



Penny Millward



James Moran



Emeline Niyibitanga



Zach Padgett



Brian Ruete



Sofia Salvino



Jasmine Sampson



Andrew Seelig



Emily Shewchuk



Morgan Stone



Bailee Tayles



Abbie Taylor



Olivia Wendland



Brandi Williams



Noah Willsea



Kylie Wilson

Greek Life

This year, our Greek Life Partners, Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. (DPhiL) and Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity (BYX), deepened their engagement with the Rutland Institute, serving as passionate ambassadors for ethics on campus. Their presence at the Ina B. Durham Case Competition and the TIDE Conference highlighted their commitment to fostering values-based leadership. Through thoughtful advocacy and collaboration, they've helped expand our reach within Greek life—bridging communities and championing ethical dialogue across Clemson's campus in powerful, peer-driven ways. Both chapters were awarded 2025 Chapter of the Year in their respective councils by the university Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.













FACE Committee



Shanita Anderso

College of Education



Scott Brame
College of Engineering,
Computing and Applied
Sciences



Karen Burton
University Libraries



Elizabeth Gilmore
Honors College & College
of Behaviorial, Social and
Health Sciences



Jeff HalloThe Graduate School



Meredith Morris
College of Science



Julian Nixon
College of Agriculture,
Forestry and Life
Sciences



Hope Parnell
Wilbur O. and Ann Powers
College of Business



Amir Poursaee
College of Engineering,
Computing and Applied
Sciences



Phil Randall
College of Arts and
Humanities



Luke Rapa
College of Education



Satomi Saito
College of Arts and
Humanities



Andy Tennyson
College of Science



Jong Han Yoon
College of Architecture,
Art and Construction



"The FACE Committee at Clemson University coordinated the Tigers for Integrity, Discourse, and Ethics (TIDE) Conference this year, which plays a pivotal role in addressing ethical dilemmas across various academic disciplines. By fostering open discourse and promoting integrity, the TIDE conference empowers participants to tackle complex ethical issues and contribute to a more just and respectful society. The FACE Committee's dedicated efforts ensure that students and faculty alike engage in meaningful ethical discussions, fostering a campus-wide culture of integrity and ethical leadership."

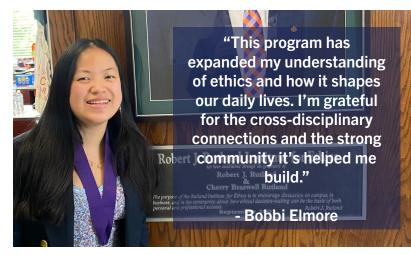
- Karen Burton, FACE Chair

Ethics Scholars Program

This year, the Distinguished Ethics Scholars Program at Clemson University celebrated its largest graduating class to date and achieved peak enrollment of 323 scholars. This growth reflects the program's expanding influence in cultivating ethical leadership across disciplines. Participants engaged in immersive workshops and leadership initiatives, earning recognition as Ethics Scholars or Distinguished Ethics Scholars. Graduates have demonstrated continued success, applying ethical decision-making skills in diverse professional arenas. The program's sustained excellence underscores Clemson's commitment to integrating ethics into the fabric of higher education and preparing students to navigate complex moral landscapes with integrity.

"The Distinguished Ethics
Scholars Program taught
me that ethics isn't just
learned — it's lived. Through
CHANGE, I built leadership
skills and helped spark real
conversations. It's been a
highlight of my Clemson
experience."

- Albash Khan











Congrats, Scholars!



Raney Burnett



Julie Calhoun



Bobbi Elmore



Erin Glass



Seth Harding



Lucy Hart



Amber Hawes



Charles Hawes



Copeland Johnson



Albash Khan



Delaney McLaughlin



Jasmine Sampson



Sarah Webb

Pictured above are the students who graduated as Distinguished Ethics Scholars, and listed below are those who graduated as Ethics Scholars this year. We are excited to see how they bring their gifts of ethical leadership and decision-making into the workplace, graduate school, and beyond. Congratulations, Tigers!

Slade Bibb
Kelli Brabson
Olivia Cunningham
McKinley Eads
Kailee Heininger
Isabel Howard
Olumayowa Idowu
Zion Kaauwai
Jessica Mason

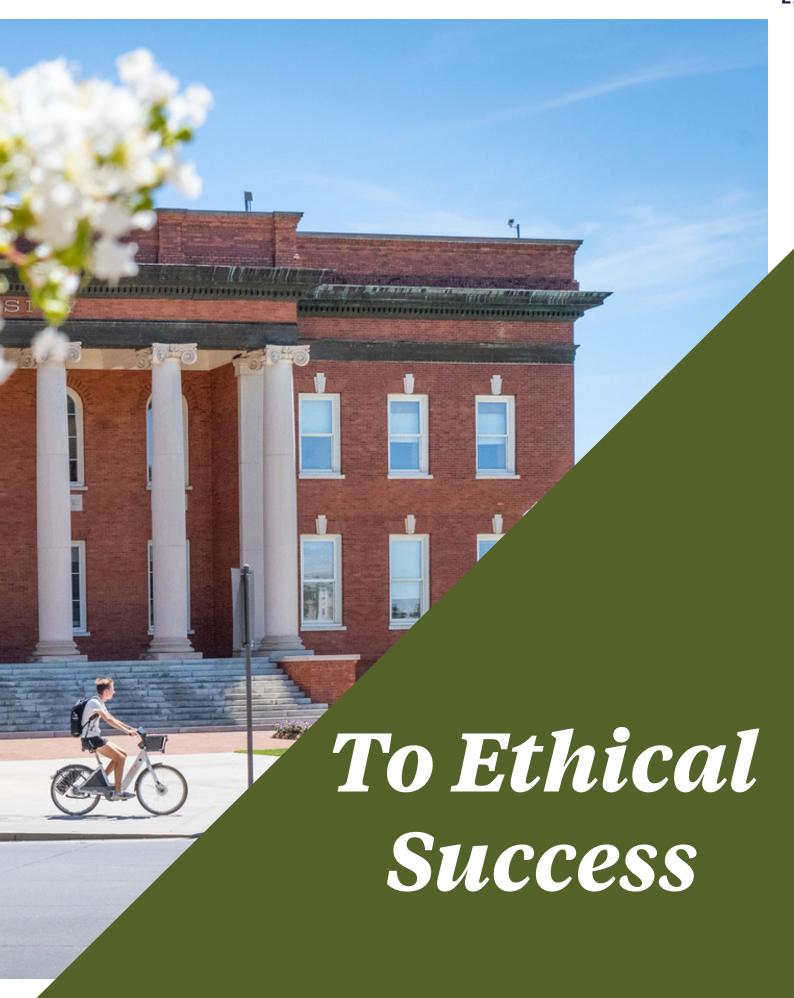
Ava McVey
Daniella Nichols
Sarah Otterbeck
Emma Pereda
John Phillips
Sofia Puig
Lilian Raczkowski
Cailin Ramos
Isabelle Roy

Sayde Saldierna-Leopold
Desiree Sheetz
Isabella Short
Katelyn Shumate
Abbie Taylor
Allanis Vazquez-Martinez
Connor-Michael Weir
Kea Yengst

Hannah Yon

Visit <u>clemson.edu/ethics/ethicsscholars/scholars-roll-of-honor</u> to view all of the graduates of the Ethics Scholars Program.





Annual Ethics Day

Annual Ethics Day 2024 featured a compelling keynote by Clemson alumna Dr. Nancy Love, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Michigan. Her talk, "When Ethical Norms Collide: A Viewpoint from Multi-Disciplinary 'People First' Engineering," challenged students and faculty to consider the complexities of ethical leadership in collaborative fields.











- Tracy Arwood, Associate Vice President and Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer

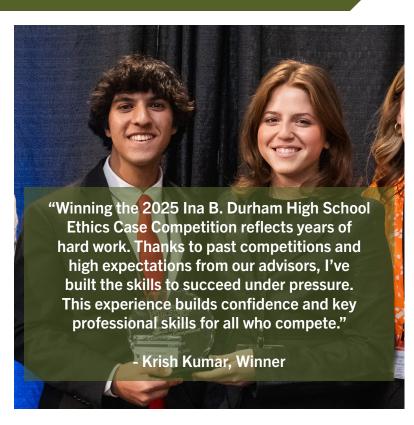
Annual Ethics Day reinforced our collaboration with the University Office of Compliance and Ethics. Aligned with the week's campus-wide focus on integrity, the Annual Ethics Day events elevated the Institute's role in encouraging ethical dialogue across disciplines. Throughout the three sessions, the day sparked thoughtful dialogue, emphasizing the importance of ethical reflection in both academic and professional settings.



Ina B. Durham High School Ethics Case Competition

The 2025 Ina B. Durham High School Ethics Case Competition welcomed 18 student teams from up and down the East Coast, marking one of our most geographically diverse cohorts yet. These talented students tackled a timely ethical dilemma centered around the practice of sports betting, and sharpened their critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills.

This year we announced a new partnership with National Beta, the largest independent, non-profit youth organization in the U.S., reaching over 450,000 students across 47 states. This collaboration helped expand the reach and visibility of the case competition in 2025 through the release of an ethical decision-making curriculum based on the Clemson University STAR Model distributed to more than 3,000 high schools. By embedding ethics into National Beta's leadership and service framework, we're equipping thousands of high school students with tools to navigate ethical challenges and grow as responsible, values-driven leaders.

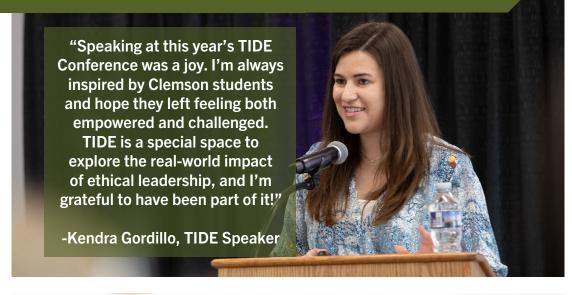
























TIDE Conference

The Tigers for Integrity, Discourse, and Ethics (TIDE) Conference, hosted by the Rutland Institute for Ethics, invites students, faculty, and community members to explore the ethical challenges facing their disciplines and the broader world. This intercollegiate series spotlighted how integrity and open discourse can create a more just society and a university culture rooted in fairness and respect.

Each evening featured thought-provoking presentations co-hosted by Clemson's academic colleges. The College of Education welcomed Dr. Marquice Clark, who shared his transformational leadership at Cleveland Academy. The College of Business hosted Dr. Pam Smith, whose address on mindset and success offered practical ethical insights for aspiring professionals.

College of Science Fulbright Scholar, Kendra Gordillo, explored ethical leadership in biomedicine, while former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams, led a town hall on public health ethics. Dr. John Knapp examined the role of Al and authorship in leadership integrity for the College of Arts and Humanities. Conservation and justice were front and center as Megan Chase-Muller (CECAS) and Terrance Freeman (CAAC) concluded the conference with powerful stories of ethical leadership in action.

TIDE remains a signature initiative promoting interdisciplinary engagement with ethics at Clemson University.

Cherry Braswell Rutland Memorial Ethics Award

Established in 2018 through the Rutland Institute for Ethics, the Cherry Braswell Award honors a Clemson student who demonstrates ethical fortitude in the face of a real ethical dilemma. Selected by a panel of faculty and alumni, this year's \$1,000 award goes to Terence Asitibasi, whose thoughtful decision-making and principled leadership embody the spirit of Cherry Braswell Rutland.

Winner



Terence Amankatoa Asitibasi

Terence, a master's student from Ghana, is the 2025 Cherry Braswell Award recipient. His leadership spans non-profit work, student engagement, and research on rural development and social change. Committed to integrity and equity, he aspires to influence policy that fosters sustainable, ethical progress in underserved communities.







J.T. Barton, Jr. Memorial Ethics Awards

Established in 2001 by Stephan Barton in honor of his father, J.T. Barton, Jr. (Clemson Class of 1950), the J.T. Barton, Jr. Memorial Ethics Award celebrates students who demonstrate excellence in ethical decision-making. Now awarded to individuals or student groups, recipients must pledge to use the funds—\$1,500, \$1,000, or \$500—to promote ethical thinking on campus. Judged by the Rutland Institute Advisory Board, the award supports projects that thoughtfully engage today's ethical challenges and foster a culture of integrity, reasoning, and leadership across the Clemson University community.

Winners



Albash Khan

1st Place



Emily Shewchuk

2nd Place



Justin Wolfe

3rd Place

Honorable Mentions



Bailee Tayles



Morgan Stone

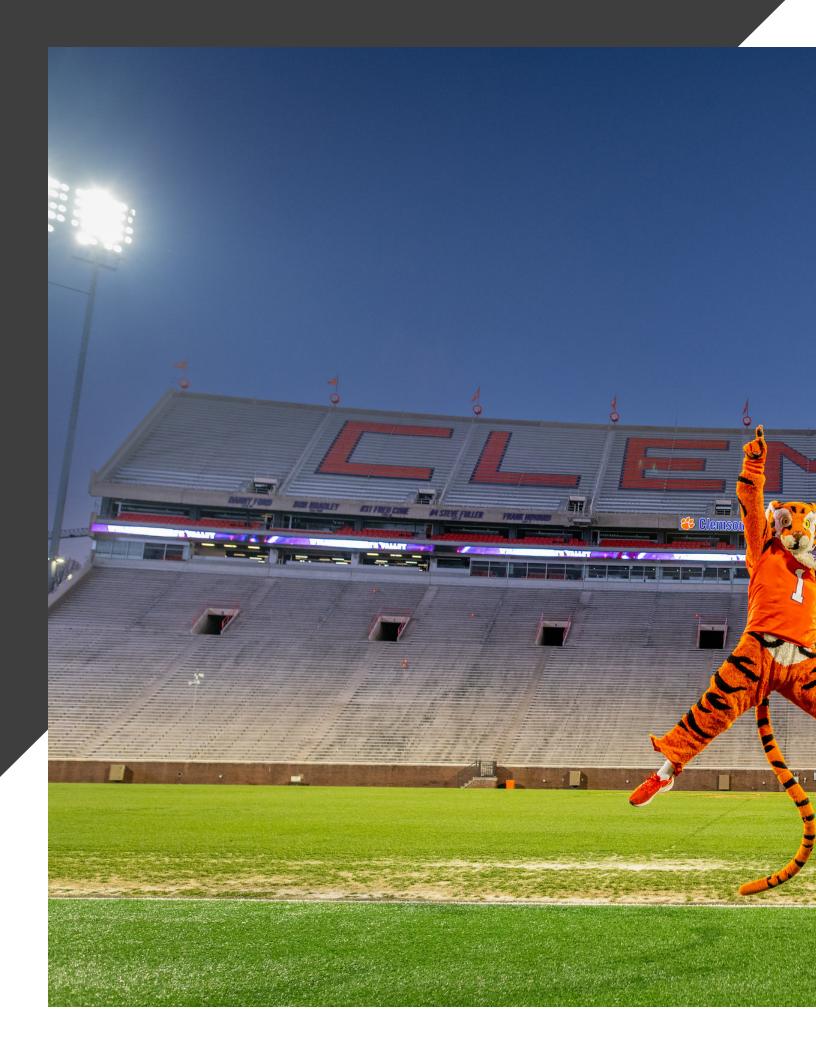


Skyler Holland



Jasmine Sampson

To read more, visit https://www.clemson.edu/ethics/awards-scholarships/barton-award-2025.html





Fiscal Report 2024–2025

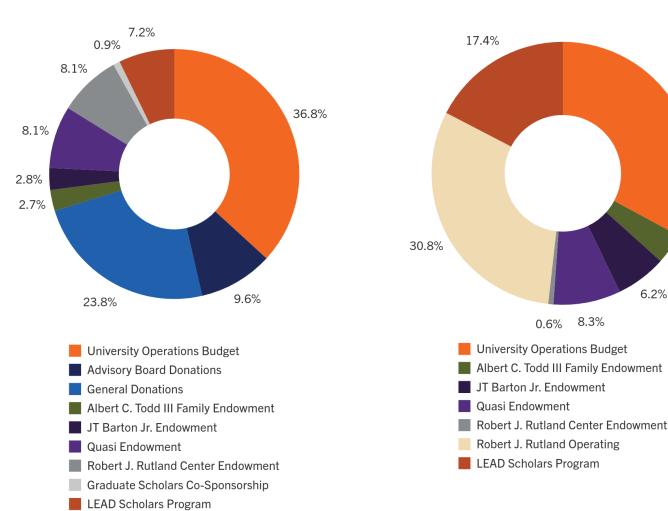
Income	FY 25 Budget	FY 25 Actual	FY 26 Budget
University Support	\$ 329,111.10	\$ 329,111.10	\$ 288,452.10
Advisory Board Donations	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
General Donations	\$ -	\$ 29,750.00	\$ -
Albert C. Todd III Family Endowment	\$ 3,390.00	\$ 3,390.00	\$-
JT Barton Jr. Endowment	\$ 3,526.00	\$ 3,526.00	\$ 3,000.00
Quasi Endowment	\$ 10,087.00	\$ 10,087.00	\$ 5,000.00
Robert J. Rutland Center Endowment	\$7,749.00	\$ 7,749.00	\$ 9,500.00
Graduate Scholars Co-Sponsorship	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 1,000.00
LEAD Scholars Program	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -
Total	\$ 367,363.10	\$405,693.10	\$ 318,952.10

FY 25 Operating Income FY 25 Operating Expense

32.9%

3.8%

6.2%



Program Expenses	FY 25 Budget	FY 25 Actual	FY 26 Budget
Annual Ethics Day	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 4,487.42	\$ 1,500.00
TIDE Conference	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,546.81	\$ 1,000.00
Distinguished Ethics Scholars Program	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,698.17	\$ 2,000.00
Eller Case Competition	\$ 7,150.00	\$ 625.00	\$-
College Ethics Symposium	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 424.78	\$ 1,500.00
CHANGE Student Group	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$3,000.00
Hot Topics	\$ 300.00	\$ 550.00	\$-
LEAD Program	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 11,210.22	\$-
General Expenses	FY 25 Budget	FY 25 Actual	FY 26 Budget
Salaries	\$ 283,161.10	\$ 283,161.10	\$ 280,357.00
Staff Travel	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,398.75	\$1,296.00
Board Meeting	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 987.40	\$2,000.00
Phone	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 426.00	\$ 50.00
Printers	\$ 750.00	\$579.16	\$ 600.00
Printing	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,797.10	\$ 2,500.00
Supplies	\$ 150.00	\$ 62.26	\$ 365.00
Facilities	\$ 100.00	\$-	\$ 200.00
Memberships	\$ 4,500.00	\$-	\$ -
Cherry Braswell Student Award	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Postage	\$ 200.00	\$-	\$ 200.00
Business cards	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.33	\$ 50.00
Marketing	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,631.24	\$ 1,500.00
Misc.	\$ 500.00	\$ 217.94	\$ -
Credit Card fees	\$ 20.00	\$ 34.55	\$ 30.00
Faculty Fellow	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$-
Foundation Expense	FY 25 Budget	FY 25 Actual	FY 26 Budget
ACE Faculty Awards	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Business Meals	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,416.56	\$ 500.00
The Question Project	\$ 5,050.00	\$ 302.41	\$ -
UPIC Intern	\$ 5,000.00	\$5,347	\$ 5,000.00
J.T. Barton Jr. Memorial Ethics Award	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
LEAD Program	\$-	\$ 10,462.81	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 1,445.90	\$ 2,000.00

